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The Templeton Crocker Expedition. V. A New Chrysomelid Beetle of the Genus *Monoxia* from Lower California.¹

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(Text-figure 1).

[This is the fifth of a series of papers relating to the collections made by the Templeton Crocker Expedition to Lower California and Clarion Island. Full details, maps, etc., will be found in *Zoologica*, Vol. XXII, No. 2, pp. 33 to 46.]

During the Templeton Crocker Expedition of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society on board the yacht *Zaca*, the following new species of beetle was taken by Dr. William Beebe.

Monoxia beebei sp. nov.

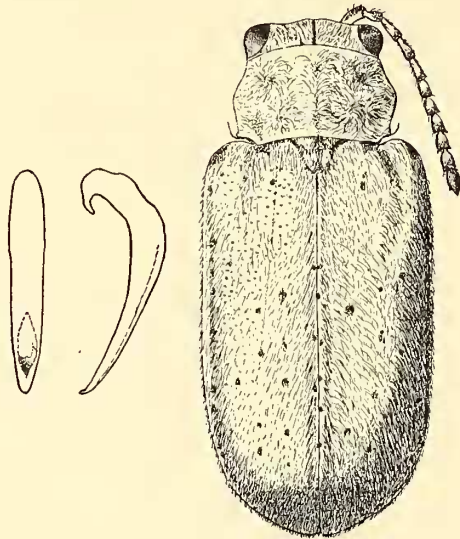
Types: Type male and 4 paratypes, U. S. National Museum, Cat. No. 51941; 4 paratypes in the American Museum of Natural History; 2 paratypes in the collections of the Department of Tropical Research, New York Zoological Society, Nos. 36,925 and 36,926; all collected by William Beebe on April 10, 1936. Of the 11 specimens of the species collected, only 2 are males, both of which had been dissected before the material was given to the writer for examination. It has consequently been necessary to designate as type one of these dissected specimens.

Type Locality: Santa Inez Island, in Santa Inez Bay, Gulf of California (27° 02' N., 111° 44' 40" W.).

Description: Oblong oval, about 3.5 mm. long, pale yellow, sometimes entirely immaculate, but often with small brown elytral spots irregularly placed, and in darker specimens with the underside deeper brown in places; densely covered with silky pale pubescence, the fine, dense elytral punctation more or less visible beneath. *Head* pale with reddish brown mouthparts and in one instance brown frontal tubercles, a median line extending from occiput down front, area above tubercles thickly covered with closely appressed pubescence, lower front less densely hairy. Antennae not extending much below humeri, pale, first and third joints longest, sixth to apical joints thicker. *Prothorax* approximately one and two-thirds times as wide as long, widest in middle where it is somewhat angulate; a nodule at the sharp basal angle; disc slightly depressed on the sides and with a median channel; pubescence dense. *Elytra* moderately convex, wider than prothorax with prominent humeri and a long intrahumeral depression extending about one-third the length of the elytra and curving inwards; in some specimens

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traces of two median ridges, such as occur in species of *Galerucella*; pubescence dense and recumbent, but not entirely obscuring the close, fine and deep punctation below; markings variable, some specimens entirely pale, others with numerous small brown spots, these spots tending to be along suture and in a series of three or more lines on each elytron. Body beneath densely pubescent; in pale specimens entirely pale, in more heavily marked specimens deeper brown and one specimen with traces of a dark ring about the femora. Claws typical of the genus, simple in female and cleft in male. Length 3.2 to 3.8 mm.; width 1.5 mm.



Text-figure 1.

Monoxia beebei sp. nov.

Food-plant: Probably breeding on *Atriplex barclayana* (Benth.) Dietr. or *Amaranthus watsoni* Standl., the two plants making up almost exclusively the vegetation of Santa Inez Island.

Remarks: The species of the genus *Monoxia* are among the most difficult to identify in the Chrysomelidae of this country. In all the collections that I have examined, LeConte's species have been recognized in only one or two instances. Yet LeConte's species, for the most part wrongly synonymized by Horn, have quite distinctive characters to be seen in their shape, their pubescence and punctation, and in the aedeagus. Before any new ones are described, the species already described should be more clearly understood. In a later publication I hope to be able to discuss these species more in detail.

Monoxia beebei is a little smaller than *M. consputa*, a little larger than *M. sordida*, and considerably smaller than *M. angularis* and *M. guttulata*, the largest of LeConte's species. It differs from *consputa* in being narrower and much more densely pubescent and with finer elytral punctation. The aedeagus is also much longer. Besides being smaller than *angularis*, it has a quite differently shaped and narrower prothorax and much finer elytral punctation. In *guttulata* the elytral pubescence is erectish, not recumbent as in this species. *M. obtusa* (including *debilis*, the male of the same species) is a larger and more convex species with deep, well spaced elytral

punctuation. *Sordida* belongs to an entirely different group that forms a link between *Galerucella* and *Monoxia*, having the claws in both sexes bifid and having a wider prothorax. *M. batisia* Blatch., occurring on *Batis maritima* from North Carolina to Mexico on the Atlantic coast, is a larger species. The species above referred to include all those hitherto described in the genus.

Dr. Beebe writes: "There were thousands upon thousands of the beetles everywhere, covering decayed sargassum seaweed stranded on the beach as well as the rocks and the above food plants (*Amaranthus* and *Atriplex*). Tens of thousands were flying and resting, covering one's face and clothing in myriads, and they formed the food of lizards, birds, fish, crabs, etc."